

Roberts-Payne House
West side of Dakota Street at Pine Street
South Pass City
Fremont County
Wyoming

HABS No. WYO-43

HABS
WYO,
7-SOPAC,
16-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20005

ROBERTS-PAYNE HOUSE

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Location: West side of Dakota Street at Pine Street, South Pass City, Fremont County, Wyoming.
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: (USGS South Pass City Quadrangle Map) 12.680800.4704240.

Present Owner: State of Wyoming.

Present Occupant: None.

Statement of Significance: The building is the only one-and-a-half-story cabin in South Pass City, and the most elaborate remaining residence.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1890.
2. Architect: Unknown, but builder may have been Bolivar Roberts.
3. Original and subsequent owners: (Note: For further information on land ownership in South Pass City see the HABS Report on South Pass City, WYO-27.) The cabin is on the Lucky Boy Placer Claim and the original owners of this claim were J. J. Marrin and Lawrence Geissler. They claimed the placer in 1912. After the death of Lawrence Geissler, his share of the claim was divided between Edna Geissler Carpenter and Dorothy Geissler Darington. After the death of J. J. Marrin, his share went to Ellen Marrin and later to Pete Marrin. In the 1930's the owners of the Carissa Mine claimed this property. This claim is still under litigation. In 1964, Pete Marrin bought out both Edna Carpenter and Dorothy Darington. However, Marrin only owns the land and not the cabin. The cabin builder, Roberts, was in 1890, the owner of the Carissa Mine. Afterward, the cabin was owned by Ernest Smith and later by Janett Payne. Mrs. Payne gave the cabin to the Wyoming Recreation Commission in 1972. The cabin is known by both the Smith family name and the Payne family name.
4. Alterations and additions: Although there is no documentation it appears that a small storage room at the northwest corner of the building is a later addition to the original structure.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: Photographic file, Wyoming Recreation Commission, Cheyenne, Wyoming.

2. Bibliography:

a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Bane, John, resident of South Pass City since 1926;
interview in South Pass City, Wyoming on June 23,
1973.

Fremont County, Abstract of Titles for Township 29,
Fremont County Courthouse; Laramie, Wyoming.

Fremont County, Records of Tax Assessor, Fremont County
Courthouse; Lander, Wyoming.

Marrin, Peter, owner of the Lucky Boy Claim; interview
in South Pass City, Wyoming on August 1, 1973.

Shaffer, Thomas, planner for the Wyoming Recreation
Commission; interview in Cheyenne, Wyoming on
June 19, 1973.

b. Secondary and published sources:

Muths, Thomas. Restoration Master Plan, South Pass City,
Wyoming. Jackson, Wyoming: Design Associates, 1972.

Prepared by John Paige
Project Historian
National Park Service
Summer 1973

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The only example of a late nineteenth century frontier cabin with more than one story still standing in South Pass City.
2. Condition of fabric: Fair, but deteriorating rapidly.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Cross-shaped in plan, approximately 40'-8" (east front elevation) x 30'-6".
2. Foundations: Local red slate shist.

3. Wall construction, finish and color: Natural finish lodge-pole pine logs with window and door trim, corner boards and gables of sawn lumber.
 4. Structural system, framing: Log bearing walls with frame roof.
 5. Porches, stoops: Wooden stoops at front and rear entrances.
 6. Chimneys: There is a brick chimney in the center of the building.
 7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: There is a wooden door at the front (east) entry with an oval glass panel and transom. There is a four-paneled wooden door at the entrance into the South room. There is a five-paneled wooden door at the rear (west) entrance.
 - b. Windows, shutters: All windows on the first floor are double-hung. The windows at the rear and north side room are two-over-two light. The windows in the front and south side room are six-over-six light. On the upper floor there is a three-light in-swinging casement centered in the east gable. It is topped by a triangular transom with simple raking trim giving the window a vaguely Gothic appearance. The west (rear) window on the upper floor has four-over-four light double-hung sash.
 8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Cross gable, wooden shingle.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Simple boxed eaves.
- C. Description of Interior:
1. Floor plans:
 - a. Basement: There is a shallow basement under the storage room at the northwest corner of the building. It is reached by means of steps below a trap door in the floor at the northeast corner of the room.
 - b. First floor: The first floor consists of a center front room with an entry hall along its south wall. There are side rooms to the north and the south and a kitchen at the west. At the northwest corner is a storage room.
 - c. Second floor: There is a single room located above the center front room and the kitchen.

2. Stairways: There is an enclosed stairway at the northwest corner of the kitchen which provides access to the second floor. It has two runs with winders. There is a trap door and steps leading to the shallow basement below the storage room.
 3. Flooring: Eight-inch wooden plank floor.
 4. Wall and ceiling finish: The first floor walls are log covered first with muslin and then wall papered. The second floor is exposed by construction.
 5. Doorways and doors: The interior doors are four-panel wooden doors. The frames in the center front room have a trim surround of back-moulding.
 6. Mechanical equipment: "Majestic" cooking stove in the kitchen.
- D. Site:
1. General setting and orientation: Located along Dakota Street and adjacent to Mormon Gulch, the building is oriented east.
 2. Outbuildings: A privy is located at the rear of the property west of the house.

Prepared by J. William Rudd
Architect
Project Supervisor
National Park Service
Summer, 1973

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were made during the 1973 Wyoming Project undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with the Wyoming Recreation Commission. During the project, records were made on twenty-eight (28) individual subjects and six (6) historic areas.

This project was under the general supervision of John Poppeliers, chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Project Supervisor was Professor J. William Rudd, Architect, of the University of Cincinnati. Project Historian was John Paige, Oklahoma State University. The measured drawings were prepared by John Uhler, University of California at Berkeley, Architect; and Student Assistant Architects Richard Duflocq, University of Cincinnati, Clayton Fraser, University of Tennessee, and Richard Wyatt, California Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo. Jack E. Boucher, HABS staff photographer, provided the photographic record. This report was edited for HABS in 1977 by Candace Reed.